ALLENTOWN-BETHLEHEM MSA ALTOONA MSA BEAVER COUNTY PMSA ERIE MSA HARRISBURG-LEBANON-CARLISLE MSA JOHNSTOWN MSA LANCASTER MSA PHILADELPHIA PMSA PITTSBURGH PMSA READING MSA SCRANTON /WILKES-BARRE MSA SHARON MSA STATE COLLEGE MSA WILLIAMSPORT MSA YORK MSA

ISSUED: March 1992

PENNSYLVANIA'S LABOR FORCE

..... A Monthly Statistical Analysis

FEBRUARY 1992 HIGHLIGHTS

- **Pennsylvania's joblessness rose sharply in February; the statewide rate of unemployment, seasonally adjusted, jumped from 7.1 to 7.6 percent.**
- **Nonfarm jobs rose seasonally by 16,900 in February to 4,983,000. They were about 49,500 under their level of February 1991.**

In January 1992 . . .

- **Average weekly earnings of production workers in Pennsylvania manufacturing industries slipped to $471.42, as the average workweek shrank by 0.8 hour and average hourly pay by 3 cents.**
- **The total number of initial claims increased 6 percent from December and weeks claimed by 20 percent.**
- **About $72 million benefits were paid to emergency unemployment compensation claimants.**
- **Unadjusted unemployment rates were up in 65 of Pennsylvania's 67 counties.**
- **Eight of Pennsylvania's 15 major labor market areas had lower seasonally adjusted unemployment rates than in December and 7 higher, but changes were less than a percentage point.**

Special Interest Topic: Trends in Primary Metals

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LABOR MARKET INFORMATION

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Robert P. Casey, Governor

Department of Labor and Industry Bureau of Research and Statistics

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY
BUREAU OF RESEARCH AND STATISTICS

Pennsylvania's Labor Force . . . A Monthly Statistical Analysis

is published monthly by the Bureau of Research and Statistics.
Focusing on economic information and analysis, the publication is intended for a variety of users from business leaders, government administrators and planners to the general public.

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Inquiries can also be directed to Labor Market Analysts located throughout Pennsylvania.

The following is a list of Analysts and the counties they serve.

Analyst	Phone Number	Counties Served
Edward Murray	(215)560-1977 Philadelphia	Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, Philadelphia Counties in PA; Burlington, Camden, and Gloucester Counties in NJ
Kenneth Shockley	(215)378-4314 Reading	Carbon, Lehigh, Northampton, Pike, Wayne, Schuylkill, Berks Counties in PA; Warren County, NJ
James Mowad	(717)963-3443 Scranton	Columbia, Lackawanna, Luzerne, Monroe, Wyoming, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Bradford, Tioga
Fred Schneider Larry Baugher	(717)771-1299 York	Cumberland, Dauphin, Lebanon, Perry, Lancaster, Adams, York, Franklin, Fulton
Glenn Lynn	(717)327-3504 Williamsport	Centre, Lycoming, Potter, Juniata, Mifflin, Clinton, Montour, Northumberland, Snyder, Union
William Findley Debra Nicholson	(814)533-2213 Johnstown	Blair, Cambria, Somerset, Bedford, Clearfield, Jefferson, Huntingdon, Elk, Cameron, Greene
William Ceriani Roberta Wilson	(412)565-5350 Pittsburgh	Beaver, Allegheny, Fayette, Washington, Westmoreland, Butler, Indiana, Armstrong, Lawrence
Carol Patterson	(814)871-4298 Erie	Erie, Mercer, McKean, Clarion, Crawford, Forest, Venango, Warren

ANNOUNCING

. . . REVISED FIGURES

Each year with the release of January's Current Population (household) Survey (CPS) estimates, the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) revises previously reported labor force data for the eleven largest states. The revisions are based upon updated population estimates from the U.S. Bureau of the Census and new seasonal adjustment factors recomputed by BLS with the addition of the most recent year's labor force data. These revisions affect monthly resident labor force estimates back to 1989.

Other important data items reported monthly in these releases, estimates of nonagricultural wage and salary jobs in Pennsylvania, also undergo annual revisions during this time of year. These estimates are obtained from a survey of business establishments conducted each month by the state Department of Labor and Industry for the U.S. Department of Labor. Beginning with this release the data have been revised to first quarter 1991 benchmarks and are, therefore, not strictly comparable to figures published prior to March 1992.

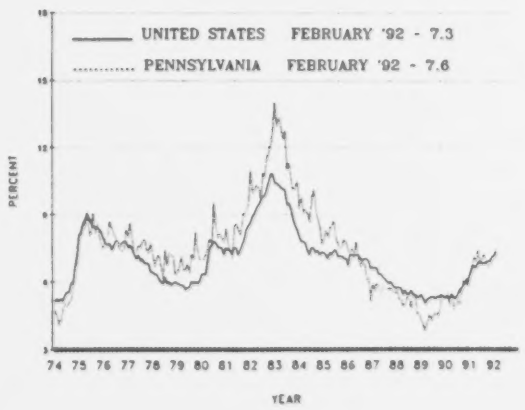
CURRENT LABOR FORCE SITUATION

JOBLESSNESS in Pennsylvania rose sharply in February to a new recession high. The statewide seasonally adjusted rate of unemployment jumped to 7.6 percent in February from 7.1 percent in January. The nation's rate also rose to 7.3 percent in February from 7.1 percent in January.

Data, made available through the Current Population Survey of households and released by the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics, show February's unemployment in Pennsylvania, adjusted for seasonality, up 35,000 to 457,000. This was the highest jobless count of the recession and the highest, overall, since June 1985 when 488,000 Pennsylvanians were searching for work. February's rate of 7.6 percent was the highest since May 1986 when the rate was 7.8 percent. Compared to one year ago, the rate in the Commonwealth was up one full percentage point from 6.6 percent.

Although unemployment rose sharply, employment, seasonally adjusted, showed only a small loss of 6,000 in February to 5,550,000. This was about 83,000 or two percent above the low point of the recession in March of last year, when employment fell to 5,467,000.

UNITED STATES & PENNSYLVANIA
UNEMPLOYMENT RATES
(SEASONALLY ADJUSTED)



RESIDENT CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE
(in thousands)

	FEB. 1992	JAN. 1992	FEB. 1991	CHANGE FROM JAN. 1992	CHANGE FROM FEB. 1991
Civilian Labor Force	5,977	5,935	5,876	42	101
Employment	5,463	5,470	5,432	-7	31
Unemployment	514	465	443	49	71
Rate of Unemp.	8.6%	7.8%	7.5%	0.8	1.1
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED					
Civilian Labor Force	6,007	5,978	5,910	29	97
Employment	5,550	5,556	5,521	-6	29
Unemployment	457	422	389	35	68
Rate of Unemp.	7.6%	7.1%	6.6%	0.5	1.0

The ability of employment to hold up while unemployment rose shows that many people are entering the labor force, beginning or resuming their search for jobs. This was the second consecutive month of healthy labor force expansion, carrying the statewide labor force to 6,007,000 in February, second only to March 1990 when the labor force registered 6,008,000. It appears that, despite historic low consumer confidence, workers are returning to the job market hoping that the economy and job availability are on the rise.

Data from the monthly survey of employers show a somewhat brighter picture than the Current Population Survey results for February. Preliminary results from employers show a healthy gain of 19,000 jobs, more than double the typical February increase of 7,700. Seven out of ten industry groups exceeded expectations. Claims for unemployment compensation also showed very promising improvement. Initial claims, representing recent job losers, continued to decline during February to only a few thousand per week above normal. This suggests that recession-related job losses are ending.

PENNSYLVANIA'S JOBS

ESTABLISHMENT EMPLOYMENT
(in thousands)

	FEB. 1992 AP/	JAN. 1992 P/	DEC. 1991	JAN. 1991	CHANGE FROM DEC. 1991	CHANGE FROM JAN. 1991
NONFARM WAGE AND SALARY JOBS	4,983.0	4,966.1	5,097.0	5,027.9	-130.9	-61.8
GOODS-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	1,152.9	1,158.8	1,183.7	1,202.3	-24.9	-43.5
Mining	23.4	23.8	24.4	25.4	-0.6	-1.6
Construction	172.2	176.5	192.9	188.7	-16.4	-12.2
Manufacturing	957.3	958.5	966.4	988.2	-7.9	-29.7
Durable Goods	529.1	531.7	536.7	557.9	-5.0	-26.2
Lumber and Wood		26.8	28.4	28.7	-1.6	-1.9
Furniture and Fixtures		17.6	17.9	18.4	-0.3	-0.8
Stone, Clay, and Glass		40.6	41.7	42.7	-1.1	-2.1
Primary Metals		82.5	82.8	88.0	-0.3	-5.5
Fabricated Metals		82.8	83.5	86.3	-0.7	-3.5
Industrial Machinery		99.9	100.6	106.6	-0.7	-6.7
Electric and Electronic Equipment		75.3	76.4	78.2	-1.1	-2.9
Transportation Equipment		48.3	47.7	50.8	0.6	-2.5
Instruments and Related		38.5	38.4	39.3	0.1	-0.8
Miscellaneous Manufacturing		19.4	19.3	18.9	0.1	0.5
Nondurable Goods	428.2	426.8	429.7	430.3	-2.9	-3.5
Food and Kindred		88.1	89.9	89.7	-1.8	-1.6
Textile Mill		25.5	25.9	25.5	-0.4	0.0
Apparel and Other Textiles		66.4	66.1	65.7	0.3	0.7
Paper and Allied		38.7	38.8	39.8	-0.1	-1.1
Printing and Publishing		83.9	84.5	85.2	-0.6	-1.3
Chemicals and Allied		62.9	62.6	62.9	0.3	0.0
Petroleum and Coal		10.8	11.0	10.9	-0.2	-0.1
Rubber and Plastics		42.1	42.2	41.3	-0.1	0.8
Leather		7.4	7.7	8.3	-0.3	-0.9
SERVICE-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	3,829.3	3,806.4	3,911.1	3,825.3	-104.7	-18.9
Transportation	157.2	156.4	162.3	157.7	-5.9	-1.3
Public Utilities	105.2	104.9	104.6	105.3	0.3	-0.4
Communications		52.0	51.9	51.1	0.1	0.9
Electric, Gas and Sanitary		52.9	52.7	54.2	0.2	-1.3
Wholesale Trade	260.2	261.1	264.6	269.0	-3.5	-7.9
Retail Trade	860.4	871.7	912.7	883.1	-41.0	-11.4
General Merchandise Stores		115.1	126.0	121.4	-10.9	-6.3
Finance, Insurance and Real Estate	300.4	300.0	301.1	298.1	-1.1	1.9
Finance		141.7	140.6	139.4	1.1	2.3
Insurance		118.2	119.2	118.0	-1.0	0.2
Real Estate		40.1	41.3	40.7	-1.2	-0.6
Services	1,438.6	1,421.3	1,454.8	1,412.1	-33.5	9.2
Business		193.3	197.8	197.7	-4.5	-4.4
Health		500.4	499.5	482.9	0.9	17.5
Hospitals		267.9	266.9	258.6	1.0	9.3
Legal		41.3	41.5	41.5	-0.2	-0.2
Educational		153.3	170.1	152.1	-16.8	1.2
Social		111.5	111.9	108.2	-0.4	3.3
Other		421.5	434.0	429.7	-12.5	-8.2
Government	707.3	691.0	711.0	700.0	-20.0	-9.0
Federal		137.0	136.6	137.9	0.4	-0.9
State		133.9	146.8	149.3	-12.9	-15.4
Local		420.1	427.6	412.8	-7.5	7.3
PERSONS IN LABOR-MGMT. DISPUTES	0.8	0.9	2.2	0.3	-1.3	0.6

AP/ = Advance preliminary, based on early survey returns.
P/ = Preliminary data, used to compute "change from" columns.
Note: Data not seasonally adjusted.

JOBS ROSE seasonally in February to 4,983,000, a net gain of 16,900, according to advance preliminary data from the monthly survey of nonagricultural employer payrolls. Jobs in the service-producing sector rose 22,900 as gains, especially in services and government, overcame losses in trade. Goods-producing jobs fell 5,900 as layoffs, chiefly in construction and durable goods, outweighed gains in nondurable goods. Almost two-thirds of the 49,500 overall decline from February 1991 was in the goods-producing sector.

JOBS DECLINED in Pennsylvania for the second month in a row. The slide of 130,900 from December to 4,966,100 in January was slightly smaller than seasonally expected, but brought January's job total down 61,800 from January 1991.

The department's nonagricultural job count excludes the self-employed, domestic workers, and unpaid family workers, as well as farm workers.

Two-thirds of the over-the-year job decline was in the goods-producing sector, chiefly manufacturing and especially durable goods, where nine of ten industry groups lost jobs. The goods-producing sector, manufacturing, and durable goods job totals all reached record lows in January 1992.

About one-third of the year-to-year job decline was in the service-producing sector. The 17,500 over-the-year gain in health services was outweighed by declines in several other service industry groups -- especially retail trade and state government. Nationwide troubles in retail trade have been well publicized: too much debt, too many stores, and chary shoppers. Also well publicized has been the downsizing of state government. Pennsylvania's state government employment shrank by 10 percent over the year.

Four-fifths of Pennsylvania's job decline from December was in the service-producing sector. Most of that decline was in two industry categories: retail trade and various services. Employment in retail trade always falls in January due to the end of the Christmas shopping season, and the fall-off this January was about equal to expectations. But the drop of 33,500 jobs in services this January was nearly double the seasonal norm, and was most acute in the educational services and other services groups -- both of whose declines exceeded expectations.

Outside the service-producing sector, most of the remaining job decline this January was in construction. Although construction always falls seasonally in January, this year, perhaps owing to a mild winter, there was less of an employment decline than would be expected.

EMPLOYERS

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For a working future, this is the place.

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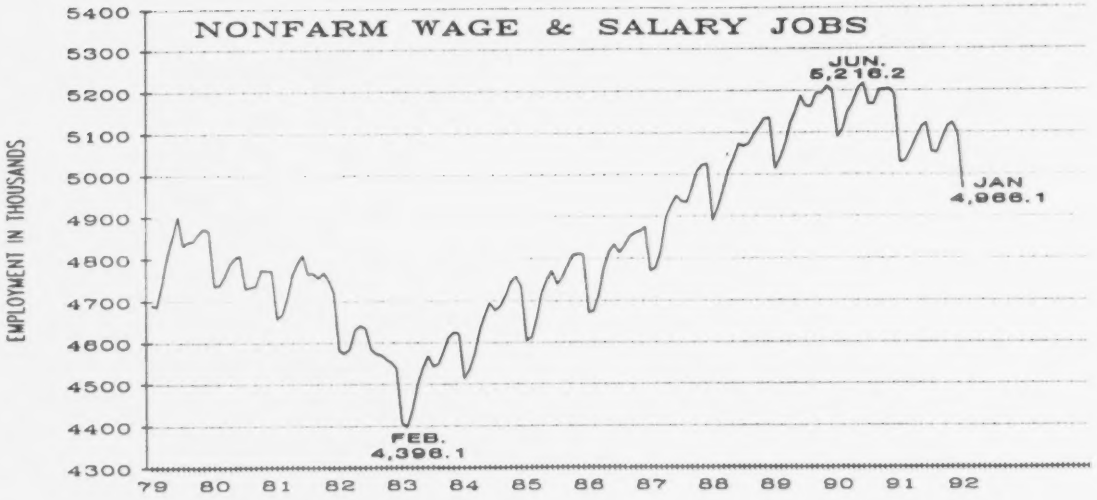
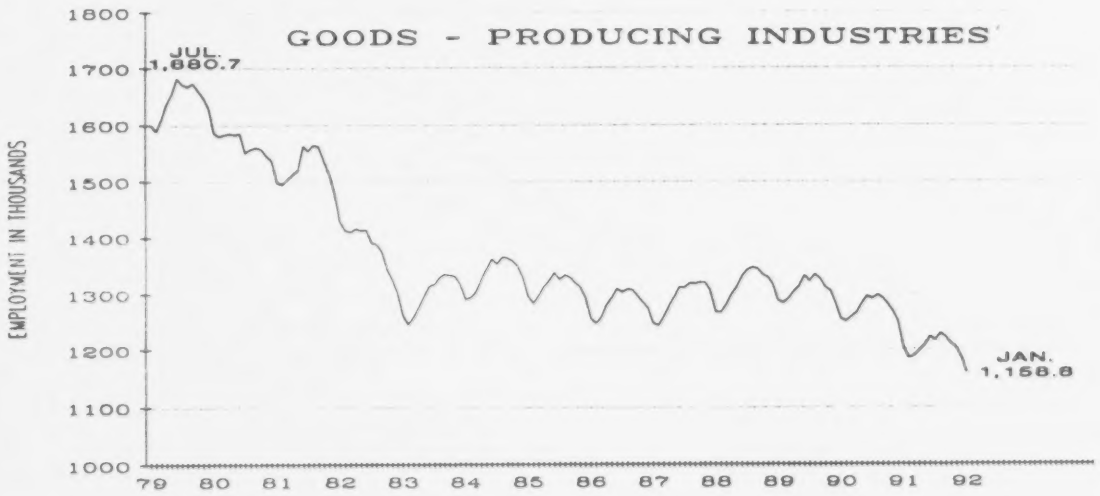
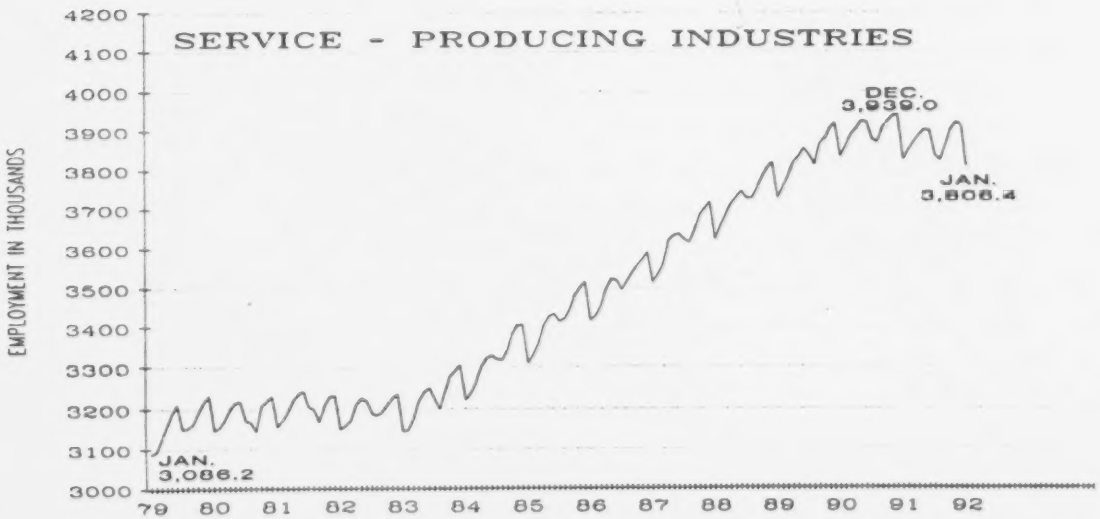
1-800-622-JOBS

ESTABLISHMENT EMPLOYMENT

in Pennsylvania







MONTH AND YEAR

ESTABLISHMENT PRODUCTION WORKERS' HOURS AND EARNINGS

	AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS			AVERAGE WEEKLY HOURS			AVERAGE HOURLY EARNINGS		
GOODS-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	JAN. 1992 P/	DEC. 1991	JAN. 1991	JAN. 1992 P/	DEC. 1991	JAN. 1991	JAN. 1992 P/	DEC. 1991	JAN. 1991
Manufacturing	471.42	481.97	447.42	40.5	41.3	39.7	11.64	11.67	11.27
Durable Goods	510.04	519.90	484.67	41.5	42.2	40.9	12.29	12.32	11.85
Lumber and Wood	367.77	376.74	342.80	39.0	39.0	37.1	9.43	9.66	9.24
Furniture and Fixtures	381.68	403.10	360.43	39.8	41.6	37.9	9.59	9.69	9.51
Stone, Clay, and Glass	495.71	496.60	461.90	40.9	41.4	40.2	12.12	12.00	11.49
Primary Metals	591.63	606.73	555.24	41.9	43.0	42.0	14.12	14.11	13.22
Fabricated Metals	489.05	503.30	455.63	42.6	43.5	40.9	11.48	11.57	11.14
Industrial Machinery	532.10	543.92	511.28	42.5	43.1	41.5	12.52	12.62	12.32
Electric and Electronic Equipment	493.85	494.34	462.31	42.5	42.8	41.8	11.62	11.55	11.06
Transportation Equipment	586.00	601.95	581.72	40.0	40.7	41.7	14.65	14.79	13.95
Instruments and Related	470.44	478.31	457.81	39.8	40.5	40.3	11.82	11.81	11.36
Miscellaneous Manufacturing	456.59	468.45	434.34	39.6	39.8	39.2	11.53	11.77	11.08
Nondurable Goods	424.05	435.77	401.38	39.3	40.2	38.3	10.79	10.84	10.48
Food and Kindred	457.34	474.37	434.58	39.7	41.0	39.4	11.52	11.57	11.04
Textile Mill	328.32	332.33	287.12	38.9	39.8	35.1	8.44	8.35	8.18
Apparel and Other Textiles	249.92	251.34	226.32	35.3	35.4	32.8	7.08	7.10	6.90
Paper and Allied	518.15	524.88	491.63	43.0	43.2	42.2	12.05	12.15	11.65
Printing and Publishing	468.10	497.35	444.25	38.4	40.6	38.1	12.19	12.25	11.66
Chemicals and Allied	602.30	616.86	567.93	43.3	44.7	42.1	13.91	13.80	13.49
Petroleum and Coal	641.09	662.19	712.06	39.5	40.6	43.9	16.23	16.31	16.22
Rubber and Plastics	439.50	434.24	414.41	42.3	42.2	41.4	10.39	10.29	10.01
Leather	262.89	265.94	272.98	34.5	34.9	36.3	7.62	7.62	7.52
SERVICE-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES									
Communications	589.57	589.35	598.18	37.6	37.9	40.2	15.68	15.55	14.88
Electric, Gas, and Sanitary	736.59	764.31	725.47	42.9	43.8	42.7	17.17	17.45	16.99

P/ = Preliminary data.
Note: Data not seasonally adjusted.

AVERAGES SLIPPED in January for both weekly hours and hourly earnings from December highs. Average weekly hours of 40.5 were 0.8 of an hour below their December level, while average hourly earnings of $11.64 were off by three cents. These changes brought average weekly earnings down by $10.55 to $471.42 in January.

Although hours and earnings usually fall from December to January, this year, they were significantly stronger than in January 1991: hourly earnings were up 3 percent, weekly hours 2 percent, and weekly earnings 5 percent over their levels of a year before.

Durable and nondurable goods both contributed to manufacturing's over-the-year advances and over-the-month declines as did most of manufacturing's industry groups. Out of the 19 groups, only one had a longer workweek in January than in the month before, while only five had shorter workweeks than for the year before.

In January, ten of the 19 industry groups, as well as nondurable goods industries as a whole, had workweeks below 40 hours. This is up from only five industry groups in December. However, in January 1991 the overall manufacturing workweek was below 40 hours. Layoffs tend to become more common at the 40-hour level, below which it becomes more difficult to further reduce the workweek for the employed. It should be noted, however, the 40-hour workweek is less of a standard in many nondurable goods industries than in the "hard goods" industries.

MANUFACTURING PRODUCTION

in Pennsylvania

MONTH AND YEAR

UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION

REGULAR PROGRAM ACTIVITY

	JAN. 1992	DEC. 1991	JAN. 1991	CHANGE FROM DEC. 1991	CHANGE FROM JAN. 1991
CLAIMS ACTIVITY					
Initial Claims	**191,953**	181,036	190,206	10,917	1,747
Weeks Claimed	**1,130,041**	939,851	1,095,937	190,190	34,104
...Average Weekly Volume	**245,661**	213,603	238,247	32,058	7,414
Insured Unemployment Rate	**5.1%**	4.4%	4.9%	0.7	0.2
PAYMENT ACTIVITY					
First Payments	**99,801**	53,743	94,478	46,058	5,323
Final Payments	**18,869**	16,425	13,163	2,444	5,706
Weeks Paid	**1,060,833**	805,007	945,028	255,826	115,805
Net Benefit Amount	**$197,334,628**	$152,472,561	$170,964,559	$44,862,067	$26,370,069
Average Check	**$186.02**	$189.41	$180.91	-$3.39	$5.11

CLAIMS CONTINUED to rise since October. Initial claims at 191,953 in January were the highest for any month in seven years. Weeks claimed advanced from December by 20 percent, to 1,130,041. The increased claims activity propelled the insured unemployment rate to 5.1 percent, its highest monthly percentage in almost seven years.

Payment activity reached levels not seen since 1983. First payments jumped 85 percent from December, final payments 15 percent, and weeks paid 32 percent. The net benefit amount shot up nearly $45 million from December, to $197 million, although the average check declined by $3.39 to $186.02.

The January 31 Unemployment Trust Fund balance dropped by $167 million to $985 million as disbursements exceeded the $30 million income.

EUC PROGRAM ACTIVITY

	Jan. 1992	Cumulative
First payments	25,652	101,023
Weeks Comp.	377,282	649,231
Benefit Amount	$72,053,891	$124,103,624
Average Check	$191	$191

In January, 25,652 persons received checks totaling $72 million or an average of $191 weekly for Emergency Unemployment Compensation benefits. These figures include payments to former federal employees and veterans, as well as to regular UC exhaustees. EUC began November 17 in all states. Pennsylvania claimants can draw up to 33 weeks of benefits. No new EUC claims may be filed after July 4, 1992.

UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION TRUST FUND ACTIVITY

BALANCES
1986 - 1992
(Dollars in Millions)

JANUARY 1992		
Income	$	30,183,429
Disbursements	$	197,329,202
Cash Reserves	$	984,806,523

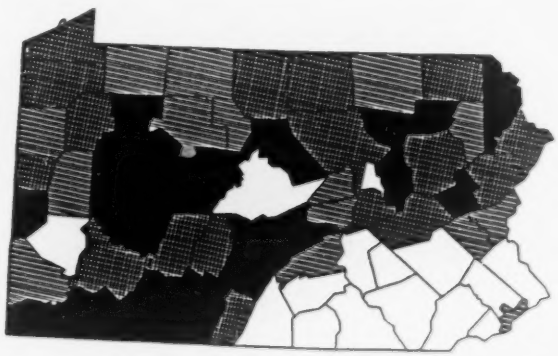
UNEMPLOYMENT ... A GEOGRAPHIC VIEW

UNEMPLOYMENT rates rose in 65 Pennsylvania counties in January. Only Union County had a lower rate than in December, and it reflected a drop of fewer than 100 persons.

For the third month in a row, Forest County had the highest unemployment rate. With a jump of 4.7 percentage points since December, its 18.7 percent rate was the highest of any county since the 1982-83 recession. Yet, Forest County, classed as 100 percent rural, is the most sparsely populated of the 67 counties, and its dramatic 3-month rise of 10 percentage points actually represented a gain of only 200 unemployed persons.

To a large degree, January's across-the-board increase was seasonal. In January 1991, for example, 66 counties had a month-to-month rate rise. However, in January 1992, 27 counties had double-digit rates as compared to 22 in January 1991, and the January 1992 rate range of 4.9 percent to 18.7 percent was higher and wider than the range of 4.2 percent to 15.4 percent a year before.

The three counties with the lowest rates -- Cumberland, Chester, and Montgomery -- and the three counties with the highest rates -- Forest, Juniata, and Huntingdon -- were unchanged from December.



JANUARY RATE OF UNEMPLOYMENT

- 4.9 to 7.5
- 7.6 to 8.8
- 8.9 to 10.8
- 10.9 to 18.7

COUNTY UNEMPLOYMENT RANKING

	JANUARY 1992 P/ RANK	RATE	VOLUME	DECEMBER RATE	DIFF.
Cumberland	1	4.9	5,500	4.4	0.5
Chester	2	5.1	10,100	4.4	0.7
Montgomery	3	5.8	22,100	4.9	0.9
Dauphin	4	5.9	8,100	5.6	0.3
Lebanon	5	6.0	4,000	5.5	0.5
Allegheny	6	6.1	41,300	5.1	1.0
Delaware	6	6.1	17,500	5.2	0.9
Lancaster	8	6.2	14,100	5.7	0.5
Adams	9	6.6	2,700	6.4	0.2
Centre	10	6.8	4,400	6.1	0.7
York	10	6.8	12,700	6.6	0.2
Bucks	12	7.1	21,200	6.0	1.1
Franklin	13	7.3	4,400	5.9	1.4
Berks	14	7.5	13,100	6.2	1.3
Montour	14	7.5	600	5.9	1.6
Elk	16	7.7	1,400	7.7	0.0
Northampton	16	7.7	9,200	6.4	1.3
Bradford	18	7.8	2,500	6.3	1.5
Lehigh	18	7.8	11,900	6.1	1.7
Mercer	20	7.9	4,100	7.2	0.7
Philadelphia	21	8.1	58,200	7.3	0.8
Butler	22	8.2	6,600	7.2	1.0
McKean	23	8.4	1,800	7.3	1.1
Union	23	8.4	1,500	8.5	-0.1
Perry	25	8.6	1,900	6.7	1.9
Snyder	25	8.6	1,700	8.2	0.4
Warren	25	8.6	2,000	7.1	1.5
Washington	25	8.6	8,300	6.7	1.9
Cameron	29	8.8	200	6.4	2.4
Lackawanna	29	8.8	9,700	7.6	1.2
Venango	31	9.0	2,300	8.3	0.7
Westmoreland	31	9.0	16,400	7.2	1.8
Erie	33	9.1	12,600	8.4	0.7
Tioga	34	9.2	1,700	7.7	1.5
Lawrence	35	9.3	4,600	8.0	1.3
Potter	35	9.3	800	8.2	1.1
Blair	37	9.5	5,900	8.7	0.8
Lycoming	38	9.6	5,800	7.5	2.1
Luzerne	39	9.9	16,000	8.6	1.3
Susquehanna	39	9.9	1,900	8.1	1.8
Monroe	41	10.2	5,100	8.6	1.6
Pike	41	10.2	1,300	8.2	2.0
Schuylkill	41	10.2	7,400	9.8	0.4
Crawford	44	10.4	4,100	8.7	1.7
Fulton	44	10.4	700	9.9	0.5
Northumberland	44	10.4	5,100	9.4	1.0
Cambria	47	10.5	7,100	8.3	2.2
Sullivan	48	10.9	300	9.1	1.8
Somerset	49	11.6	4,000	10.2	1.4
Carbon	50	11.7	3,100	9.8	1.9
Columbia	50	11.7	3,900	9.3	2.4
Bedford	52	11.8	2,800	10.4	1.4
Mifflin	53	11.9	2,500	10.6	1.3
Clarion	54	12.0	2,200	10.5	1.5
Fayette	55	12.1	7,500	9.4	2.7
Clinton	56	12.3	1,900	10.6	1.7
Armstrong	57	12.4	3,700	10.3	2.1
Clearfield	57	12.4	4,500	10.9	1.5
Beaver	59	12.5	7,800	9.5	3.0
Greene	59	12.5	1,700	10.7	1.8
Wyoming	61	12.7	1,800	10.1	2.6
Indiana	62	13.1	4,800	10.4	2.7
Jefferson	62	13.1	2,800	9.6	3.5
Wayne	64	13.2	2,700	10.7	2.5
Huntingdon	65	14.9	2,900	12.9	2.0
Juniata	66	16.3	1,700	13.4	2.9
Forest	67	18.7	400	14.0	4.7

P/ = Preliminary data.
Note: Data not seasonally adjusted.

MAJOR LABOR MARKET AREA UNEMPLOYMENT
(in thousands)

	JAN. 1992 P/ VOLUME	RATE	DEC. 1991 VOLUME	RATE	JAN. 1991 VOLUME	RATE
United States	8,929.0	7.1%	8,891.0	7.1%	7,763.0	6.2%
Pennsylvania	422.0	7.1	421.0	7.1	372.0	6.3
Labor Market Area						
Allentown-Bethlehem MSA	24.7	7.2	23.2	6.8	21.6	6.4
Altoona MSA	5.1	8.1	5.4	8.6	5.1	8.3
Beaver County PMSA	6.9	11.0	6.2	10.1	5.3	8.8
Erie MSA	11.3	8.1	12.0	8.7	8.2	6.0
Harrisburg-Lebanon-Carlisle MSA	17.9	5.3	19.5	5.7	17.3	5.2
Johnstown MSA	9.6	9.4	9.2	9.1	8.7	8.8
Lancaster MSA	12.3	5.3	13.3	5.8	12.7	5.6
Philadelphia PMSA	159.8	6.5	163.0	6.7	138.4	5.7
Pittsburgh PMSA	64.9	6.4	62.2	6.1	54.2	5.5
Reading MSA	11.8	6.7	12.0	6.8	11.5	6.6
Scranton--Wilkes-Barre MSA	32.3	8.7	31.5	8.5	28.4	7.8
Sharon MSA	3.7	7.1	4.0	7.6	3.3	6.3
State College MSA	4.1	6.1	4.1	5.9	3.9	6.1
Williamsport MSA	5.2	8.5	4.5	7.5	4.7	7.8
York MSA	13.8	6.1	15.0	6.6	13.2	5.9

P/ = Preliminary data. **Note: Data are seasonally adjusted.**

NO CHANGE occurred in Pennsylvania's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in January. Rates changed little among the 15 labor market areas. Rates in eight areas were down and in seven were up, but none by more than one percentage point.

For the second month in a row, the Beaver County Primary Metropolitan Statistical Area (PMSA) had a double-digit rate. It has risen every month since October. Beaver County has had rates that have exceeded 9.5 percent in all but four months of 1991: January, April, June and October.

For January, the Lancaster Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) tied the Harrisburg-Lebanon-Carlisle MSA for the lowest rate of 5.3 percent. Both rates were down for the month: Harrisburg's from 5.7 percent and Lancaster's from 5.8 percent. Since February 1991, these adjoining areas of eastern south-central Pennsylvania have enjoyed the two lowest rates in the state.

Over the year, Pennsylvania's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate climbed almost a percentage point. Only two labor market areas showed year-to-year declines. Two areas, Beaver County PMSA and Erie MSA, showed advances from January 1991 of over two percentage points each. Beaver County still endures the economic consequences of the previous (1981-82) recession, while Erie was hit twice last year with sizeable unemployment increases -- in the first quarter of the year, and again in December.

SERVICE DELIVERY AREAS

Unemployment rates, not seasonally adjusted, for Service Delivery Areas (SDAs) ranged from 5.1 percent in SDA 21 to 12.5 percent in SDA 05.

SERVICE DELIVERY AREA LABOR FORCE
(in thousands)

SDA NO.	COUNTIES	JANUARY 1992 P/ LABOR FORCE	EMP.	UNEMPLOYMENT VOLUME	RATE
01	Erie	138.7	126.1	12.6	9.1
02	Clarion, Crawford, Forest, Venango, Warren	108.9	97.9	11.0	10.1
03	City of Pittsburgh	176.4	165.5	10.9	6.2
04	Allegheny County minus City of Pittsburgh	496.6	466.2	30.4	6.1
05	Beaver	62.4	54.6	7.8	12.5
06	Armstrong, Butler, Indiana	146.9	131.8	15.1	10.3
07	Fayette, Westmoreland	244.4	220.4	23.9	9.8
08	Greene, Washington	110.5	100.4	10.0	9.1
09	Cameron, Clearfield, Elk, Jefferson, McKean, Potter	108.1	96.6	11.5	10.7
10	Bedford, Blair, Cambria, Fulton, Huntingdon, Somerset	213.5	190.2	23.3	10.9
11	Centre, Clinton, Columbia, Lycoming, Mifflin, Snyder, Union	232.4	210.8	21.7	9.3
13	Bradford, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Tioga, Wyoming	86.7	78.5	8.2	9.5
14	Lackawanna	110.4	100.7	9.7	8.8
15	Carbon, Monroe, Pike, Wayne	110.2	98.0	12.2	11.1
16	Luzerne, Schuylkill	235.0	211.6	23.4	10.0
17	Philadelphia	722.3	664.1	58.2	8.1
18	Bucks	298.0	276.8	21.2	7.1
19	Montgomery	383.6	361.4	22.1	5.8
20	Delaware	287.5	270.1	17.5	6.1
21	Chester	197.1	187.0	10.1	5.1
22	Lehigh, Northampton	271.9	250.9	21.1	7.7
23	Berks	175.2	162.1	13.1	7.5
24	Cumberland, Dauphin, Juniata, Lebanon, Perry	346.9	325.8	21.1	6.1
25	Lancaster	226.1	212.0	14.1	6.2
26	York	185.5	172.8	12.7	6.8
27	Adams, Franklin	100.9	93.8	7.1	7.1
28	Lawrence, Mercer	100.9	92.2	8.7	8.6
29	Montour, Northumberland	57.5	51.8	5.8	10.0
	PENNSYLVANIA - TOTAL	**5935.0**	**5470.0**	**465.0**	**7.8**

A Service Delivery Area is a geographical planning region defined by the Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA).

P/ = Preliminary data.

Note: Data not seasonally adjusted.

SPECIAL INTEREST TOPIC

TRENDS IN PENNSYLVANIA'S PRIMARY METALS INDUSTRY

Many companies and workers in communities throughout Pennsylvania have felt the effects of the steady decline in the state's primary metals production. This restructuring has once again made recent headlines as Bethlehem Steel announced plans to substantially reduce production at its Johnstown and Steelton facilities. To better understand these and similar developments within the primary metals industry in Pennsylvania, department analysts offer the following historical perspective.

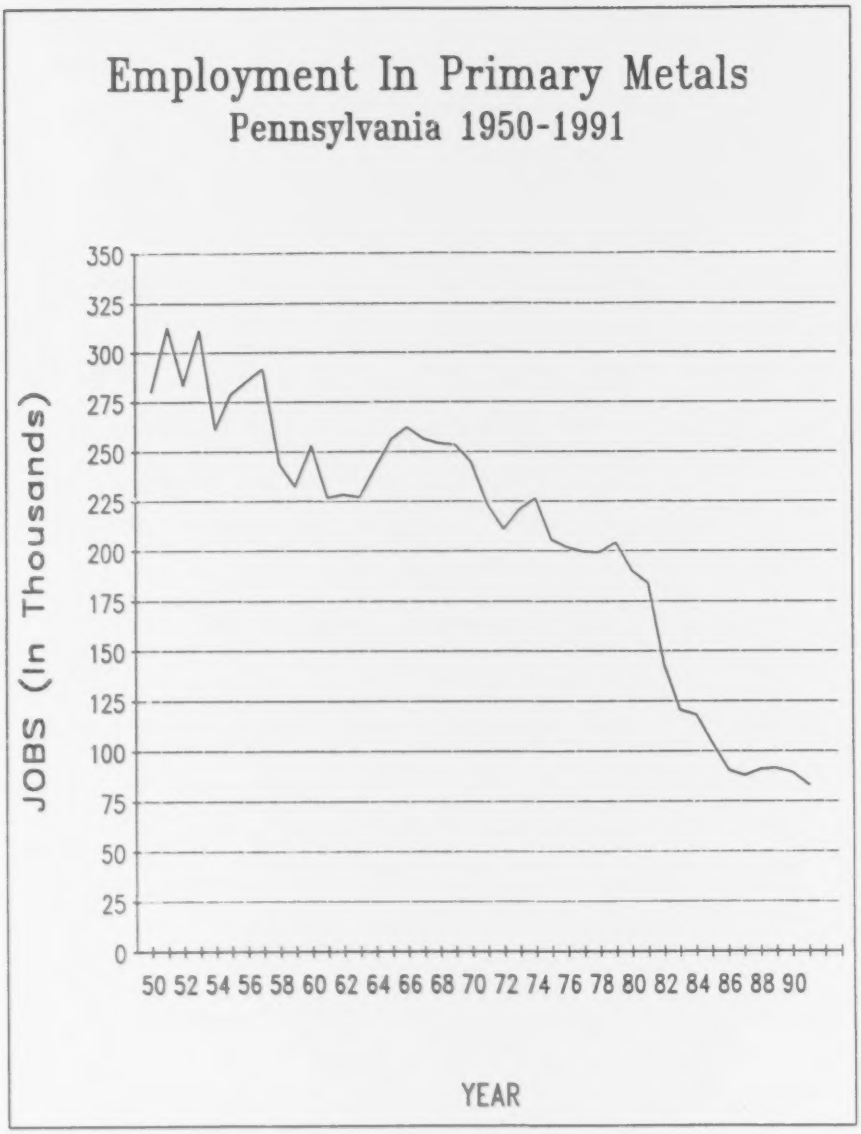
Once, the primary metals industry was Pennsylvania's largest, strongest industry, employing more than 300,000 workers in the 1940s and 1950s. During the past three decades, jobs trended down from 312,000 in 1950 to 200,000 by 1980. The 1980 and 1982 recessions eliminated another 80,000. The booming economic recovery that followed didn't help; jobs in primary metals continued to decline, as the chart on the following page shows.

Annual average employment in 1991 was about 84,100 in primary metals industries, representing just 1.6 percent of total nonagricultural wage and salary jobs statewide. This was down from 90,300 in 1990.

Several factors accounted for this continued decline:

1. High volumes of imported steel from the European Economic Community and Japan. By 1980, workers' wages in these countries were about two-thirds of the average in Pennsylvania steel mills. Also, governments of these countries, especially Japan, were subsidizing production, further making steel imports considerably cheaper than domestic steel.
2. Declining demand for automobile production. Foreign imports have cut in heavily on domestic production of cars, and downsizing of cars has reduced the amount of steel needed for each car.
3. Declining demand for railroad cars and track.
4. Declining use of steel in favor of aluminum and plastics.
5. Increasing productivity, e.g., same or more production with fewer workers.

Most of these factors are still weighing down Pennsylvania's primary metals industry, especially steel. Although problems have moderated somewhat, a significant rebound in primary metals employment is not expected. Additional, but smaller, losses are expected throughout the next decade.


Employment In Primary Metals
Pennsylvania 1950-1991
JOBS (In Thousands)
350
325
300
275
250
225
200
175
150
125
100
75
50
25
0
50 52 54 56 58 60 62 64 66 68 70 72 74 76 78 80 82 84 86 88 90
YEAR

TECHNICAL NOTES

Civilian Labor Force Estimates

Civilian Labor Force - Estimated number of persons 16 years of age and over, employed or unemployed during week including 12th of month, distributed by place of residence.

Total Employed - Includes nonagricultural wage and salary workers, the self-employed, unpaid family workers, domestics, agricultural workers, and persons involved in labor disputes. Employment distributed by place of residence.

Total Unemployed - Estimated number of persons, by place of residence, who did not work during reference week and were looking for work, whether or not eligible for unemployment compensation. Includes those who did not work and were waiting to be called back to an old job or to report to a new job.

Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment

Collection - Nonagricultural wage and salary employment as well as hours and earnings estimates based on monthly reports from sample of employers. Under cooperative arrangement with U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the Bureau of Research & Statistics of the Pennsylvania Department of Labor & Industry, mails, edits, and processes reports, which are subsequently incorporated in national data.

Industrial Classification - Employer establishments classified by industry on basis of their principal product or service. The Standard Industrial Classification Manual (U.S. Office of Management and Budget, Washington, D.C., 1987) used for classification.

Nonagricultural Employment - A count of jobs by place of work. Includes persons on paid sick leave, paid holiday, or paid vacation. Excluded are persons laid off, on strike, or on unpaid vacation during entire reporting period. Proprietors, the self-employed, unpaid family workers, farm workers, and domestic workers also excluded. Government employment covers only civilian employes. Full-time teachers considered employed during the summer vacation period, whether or not paid in those months.

Benchmark Data - Employment estimates compared annually with complete count of employment, by industry. Where revisions necessary, monthly estimates adjusted to new benchmark. Following revisions to new benchmark, industry data projected forward to current month by use of sample trends. Basic source of benchmark information is tabulations of employment data, by industry and area, compiled from contribution reports of employers covered under Pennsylvania Unemployment Compensation Law.

Hours and Earnings

Method of Computing Averages - Average hours computed by dividing total production worker hours worked during one week (the seven-day period which includes 12th of month) by number of production workers for week. Average hourly earnings computed by dividing total production worker payroll for one week by total production worker hours for week. Average weekly earnings derived by multiplying average hourly earnings by average weekly hours.

Definitions - Definitions of production or similar workers, payroll, and hours - from which average hours and earnings data are derived - follow:

Production Workers - Includes working supervisors and all nonsupervisory workers (including group leaders and trainees) engaged in fabricating, processing, assembling, inspection, receiving, storage, handling, packing, warehousing, shipping, maintenance, repair, janitorial and guard services, product development, auxiliary production for plant's own use (such as power plant), and record keeping and other services closely associated with production operations.

Payroll - Represents payroll for full- and part-time production, construction, or nonsupervisory workers who received pay for any part of pay periods which include 12th of month. Payroll is reported before deductions for Social Security, group insurance, withholding tax, bonds, and union dues; also includes pay for overtime, holidays, vacations, and sick leave paid directly by the firm.

Hours - Represents hours worked or paid, during pay periods which include 12th of month, for production, construction, or nonsupervisory workers. Hours include time paid for holidays and vacations, and for sick leave when pay received directly from firm.

Unemployment Compensation

Initial Claims - Notices of unemployment filed to request a determination of entitlement to compensation in a new benefit year (period of eligibility) following a period of employment or to begin a second or subsequent period of eligibility within the benefit year following interim employment within the benefit year.

Weeks Claimed - Requests for benefits filed by claimants which certify to the fact the claimants experienced total, partial, or part-total unemployment for given weeks.

Average Weekly Claims - Total number of weeks claimed in a month divided by the number of weeks in the month.

Insured Unemployment Rate (IUR) - Ratio of the average weekly number of persons claiming unemployment compensation benefits within the given month to average annual covered employment. Calculated by dividing the month's average weekly continued weeks claimed by average annual covered employment. Average annual covered employment is estimated until six months after year's end due to a lag in reporting covered employment.

First Payment - First benefit check a claimant receives for a week of unemployment in a benefit year.

Weeks Paid - Weeks claimed which were paid to eligible claimants upon certification that unemployment compensation qualifying unemployment was experienced during given weeks.

Net Benefit Amount - Amount of regular unemployment compensation benefits paid to claimants, after adjusting for returned and redeposited benefit checks.

Income - Amount of funds deposited into the Unemployment Compensation Trust Fund for the current month including employer and employee contributions, transfers from other sources such as the Special Administration Fund, redeposited unemployment compensation checks, federal benefit program reimbursements, loans, and interest earnings.

Disbursements - Amount of funds disbursed from the Unemployment Compensation Trust Fund for the current month including the payment of state unemployment compensation benefits, federal program benefits, refunds, and voluntary federal loan repayments.

Cash Reserves - Amount of funds available in the State's Unemployment Compensation Trust Fund available to pay unemployment compensation benefits.